



1 **TITLE: ACCESSORY FOR SHOELACES**

2 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

3 **(1) FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

4 The present invention generally relates to an accessory for shoes, and more
5 particularly pertains to a cover means for collecting and storing the bows and ends of
6 tied shoelaces while being attached to the shoes.

7 **(2) DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART**

8 There have been numerous patents granted in the field of accessories for shoelaces.
9 Such as #4,553,293, #4,949,437, #5,335,400, #5,657,557, #6,000,111, #6,601,323,
10 Des.#369,237 and Des.#356,675.

11 In US patent #4,553,293 the invention does secure the laces but it does not provide
12 a collecting and storage for the bows and ends of shoe laces.

13 In US patent #4,949,437 the invention does secure the shoe laces but the bow and
14 ends of the laces to flop.

15 In US patent #5,335,400 the invention does provide a collection and storage means
16 but does not prevent the accessory from flopping around.

17 In US patent #5,657,557 the invention attaches to both the eyes and is secured to
18 the back of the shoe. The loose ends of the shoelaces flop around.

19 In US patent #6,000,111 the invention does provide a shoelace containment factor.
20 In this invention the fastener is attached to the laces themselves.

21 In US patent #6,601,323 the shoelaces are attached to the cover and then are
22 secured by wrapping the ends of the cover to the back of the ankle.

23 In US Design patents #369,237 and #356,675 the covers do attach to the laces but
24 still flop around.

25 **SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION**

26 (Currently amended) In view of the forgoing disadvantages inherent in the known

1 types of accessories for shoelaces now present in the prior art, the present invention
2 provides an improved cover with a safety factor for the shoelace eyes and lace ends by
3 completely encapsulating these loose ends to both sides of the shoe.

4 (Currently amended) As such, the general purpose of the present invention, which
5 will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new and improved
6 shoelace apparatus and method of use which has all the advantages of the prior art
7 and none of the disadvantages.

8 (Currently amended) To attain this, the present invention provides an accessory
9 for shoe laces with two pieces, a left and right side for any shoe, which provide the
10 same positioned apertures at the front end of each cover which accommodate the two
11 lace ends so as to allow the lace ends to pass through the apertures and retain the
12 cover to the laces. The shoe laces are then tied into a standard bow. The bow and the
13 resulting tied shoelace end are both now folded inside the cover while a first
14 attachment means, being a male part and a female part snap, are mated together
15 thereby holding the bow and the tied shoelace end in place. The same scenario is
16 provided for each side of the shoe. In this model the first attachment means is a male
17 and female snap which are permanent attached to the cover. The back end of the
18 cover has a second attachment means being the female side of the snap which is also
19 permanently attached thereon the cover while the male end is permanently attached
20 to the shoe itself.

21 (Currently amended) This second attachment, female snap, attached to the cover
22 mates together with the third attachment means, being the male snap on the shoe,
23 thereby creating the attachment means for the cover to the shoe. Both sides of the
24 shoe have the same cover arrangement and attachment means. The accessory has its
25 own individual sequence of installation instructions and can be placed on any style
26 shoe.

27 (Currently amended) The present invention has an optional which comprises the
28 exact same front end aperture means on the left and right side along with the same
29 bow and tied shoelace end scenario. The cover in this option is made as a one piece

1 construction, instead of two pieces. This option folds down into the shoe itself whereby
2 the arch and weight of the person's foot holds this cover in place. A clip mean is not
3 used in this model as the cover securing means. Instead, the first attachment means,
4 the same as the two piece, is used to encapsulate the bow and tied shoelace end. One
5 end fits on the left side, while the other end fits on the left side of any style shoe. This
6 option also has its own individual sequence of installation instructions.

7 (Currently amended) The common purpose of the aforementioned accessories is to
8 provide a means to accept and retain the bow and tied shoelace end to both sides of a
9 shoe, thereby providing a safety means so a person will not trip and fall because of
10 untied loose shoelaces. All three models prevent the shoelace from coming loose and
11 thereby untied while both options are attachable to any style shoe. The cover
12 described in both options are made of a soft flexible material such as cloth, plastic or
13 the like which may be colored coordinated to match any shoe such as a dress or a
14 sports shoe such as a running shoe wherein the material may have a glow in the dark
15 accent to help provide protection for runners. The shoelace accessory of the present
16 invention succeed in providing an improvement over the prior art in this field.
17 Further, an option in the present invention is for the manufacturer of the shoe to
18 make the present shoelace accessory and add the model directly to their shoe line.
19 There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the shoelace accessory of the invention
20 in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood,
21 and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There
22 are, of course, additional features of the present invention that will be described
23 hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

24 In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the present invention
25 in detail, it is to be understood that the present invention is not limited in its
26 application to the details of construction and the arrangement of the components set
27 forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is
28 capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways,
29 also, it is to be fully understood that the phraseology and terminology employed
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herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limited.

As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purpose of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Further, the purpose of the foregoing abstract is to enable the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and practitioners in the art who are not familiar with patent or legal terms or phraseology, to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and essence of the technical disclosure of the present application. The abstract is neither intended to define the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor is it intended to be limited as to the scope of the present invention in any way.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved accessory for a shoe which has the advantage of the prior art devices and none of the disadvantages.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a new and improved shoe accessory which may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new and improved shoe accessory which is of a durable and reliable construction.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved shoe accessory which is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both materials and labor, and which accordingly is then susceptible of low prices of sale to the consuming public, thereby making such shoe accessories economically available to the buying public.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved

1 shoe accessory which provides the apparatuses and methods of the prior art some of
2 the advantages thereof, while simultaneously overcoming some of the advantages
3 normally associated therewith.

4 Still another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved shoe
5 accessory operable from a novice's level.

6 Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved
7 system for storing the tied shoelace eyes and ends thereafter for security and safety.

8 These together with other objects of the present invention, along with the various
9 features of novelty which characterize the present invention, are pointed out with a
10 particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a
11 better understanding of the present invention, its operating and installation
12 advantages and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be had to the
13 accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated
14 preferred embodiments of the present invention.

15 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

16 (Currently amended) The invention will be better understood and objects other
17 than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the
18 following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the
19 annexed drawings wherein:

20 FIG. 1 (Original) is a drawing of the invention showing the left side cover.

21 FIG. 2 (Original) is a drawing of the invention showing the right side cover.

22 FIG. 3 (Original) is a detailed drawing showing the cover being attached by the snap
23 means to the side of the shoe.

24 FIG. 4 is (withdrawn)

25 FIG. 5 is (withdrawn)

26 FIG. 6 is (withdrawn)

27 FIG. 7 (Original) is a drawing of the option showing the one piece layout.

1 **DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

2 In Fig. 1(Currently amended) the left side cover 1 of accessory is shown with
3 shoelace 3 and loose shoelace end 4 passing through aperture 5. Cover 1 is also shown
4 with male snap 6 and female snap 7 which are snapped together thereby forming the
5 finished attachment means for the left side cover 1 being used to fulfill the purpose of
6 the present invention.. Female snap 8 is shown at the opposite or bottom end of cover
7 1. Fig. 2 shows the right side cover 2 with shoelace 3 and loose shoelace end 4 passing
8 through aperture 5. Cover 1 is also shown with male snap 6 and female snap 7 which
9 also snap together thereby forming the finished attachment means for the right side
10 cover 2. Fig. 3 shows the cover 1 of model #1 with the female snap attachment means 8
11 attached there through cover 1 and aligned, so as to snap together, with male snap 9
12 which is attached to the side of shoe 12.

13 Fig. 4 is (withdrawn). Fig. 5 is (withdrawn). Fig. 6 is (withdrawn)

14 Fig. 7 (Currently amended) shows optional accessory as a one piece constructed cover
15 14 with the wearer's foot 15 drawn in dotted lines so as to show the relationship of
16 foot 15 to cover 14. The right and left side are shown with the same shoelace 3 and
17 loose shoelace end 4 passing through aperture 5. Also shown is female snap means 7
18 with male snap means 6 on each side of cover 14.

19 As to the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should
20 be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion relating to
21 the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

22 With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum
23 dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size,
24 materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are
25 deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent
26 relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are
27 intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

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1 Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the
2 invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will be readily occur to
3 those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction
4 and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and
5 equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.

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